

Amendments to the Claims

1. – 38. cancelled

39. (currently amended): An optical conversion device for receiving optical signals, converting the optical signals to RF signals, and transmitting the RF signals over media, the optical conversion device comprising:

an optical receiver for detecting the optical signal and generating a corresponding pulse train;

a bias switch connected to said optical receiver, said bias switch turning on and off solely in response to the pulse train;

an oscillator connected to said bias switch for producing a modulated RF signal, the modulated RF signal being produced by said oscillator turning on and off in response to said bias switch; and

a diplexer filter for directionally injecting the RF signal onto the media.

40. (original): The optical conversion device of claim 39, further comprising an attenuator connected between said oscillator and said diplexer for reducing the amplitude of the RF signal.

41. (previously presented): The optical conversion device of claim 39, wherein the optical conversion device is connected to a television and receives optical signals corresponding to channel select commands associated with the television from a corresponding remote control device.

42. (previously presented): The optical conversion device of claim 41, wherein said diplexer filter injects the RF signal onto the media in the direction of the direction of a residential gateway that controls communications between the television and a telecommunications network.

43. (original): The optical conversion device of claim 39, wherein the media is a coaxial cable.

44. (currently amended): An optical conversion device for receiving optical signals representing channel select commands from an optical remote control device associated with a television, converting the optical signal to an RF signal, and transmitting the RF signal over media to a residential gateway, the optical conversion device comprising:

an optical receiver for detecting the optical signal and generating a corresponding pulse train;

a bias switch connected to said optical receiver, said bias switch turning on and off solely in response to the pulse train;

an oscillator connected to said bias switch for producing a modulated RF signal, the modulated RF signal being produced by said oscillator turning on and off in response to said bias switch; and

a diplexer filter for injecting the RF signal onto the media in the direction of the residential gateway.

45. (original): The optical conversion device of claim 44, further comprising an attenuator connected between said oscillator and said diplexer for reducing the amplitude of the RF signal.

REMARKS

Claims 39 and 41-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Martinez (US005812184A). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 40 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Martinez (US005812184A).

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. See MPEP § 2131. Claims 39 and 44 have been amended to clarify

that the optical conversion device includes a bias switch that turns on and off "solely" in response to the pulse train. At col. 9, lines 10-13, Martinez teaches that a remote control signal is sent to IR module 24 and then to microprocessor 53. The microprocessor formats the viewer response and applies it to AND gate 59. The Examiner equates the AND gate 59 of Martinez to the bias switch of claims 39 and 44 and the reviewer response of Martinez to the pulse train of claims 39 and 44. Martinez goes on to state that a gating signal is applied to the second terminal of the AND gate 59 (bias switch) so that the reviewer response message (pulse train) is then applied to the modulator . . . (col. 9, lines 15-17). Thus, by the Examiner's interpretation, Martinez discloses a bias switch connected to an optical receiver, wherein the bias switch turns on and off dependent on a gating signal and the pulse train applied to its input.

On page 17 of the Office Action, the Examiner states "The AND gate receives pulse trains from the optical receiver 24 that are logic high "1"s which reads on turning on the gate (bias switch). Applicants respectfully disagree. In Martinez, turning on and off the gate is not solely dependent on the pulse train (as recited in amended claims 39 and 44). It is also dependent on the gating signal. (See col. 9, lines 13-17.) For example, a pulse train from the optical receiver that are logic high "1's" will not turn on the gate unless a "high" gating signal is also received from the TDM slot selector 29. If a "low" gating signal from the TDM slot selector 29 is applied at the input to the AND gate, the gate will not turn on. On the contrary, the bias switch of claims 39 and 44 turns on and off dependent solely on the pulse train. No gating signal is required.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that independent claims 39 and 44 are in condition for allowance. Applicants further submit that claims 40-43 and 45 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 39 and 44, respectively. Applicants request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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